

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were examined; Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9 were rejected; and Claims 2, 6-7 and 10-14 were allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 15-26 were previously canceled. Applicants amend claims 2, 6-7, and 10-14 to be allowed as rewritten in independent form, and cancel claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute prior claims 1-14 in a continuation or divisional application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of allowable claims 2, 6-7 and 10-14.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Patent Office rejects Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,121,688 to Akagawa ("Akagawa"). It is axiomatic that to be anticipated, every limitation of a claim must be disclosed in a single reference.

Applicants cancel claims 1, 3-5, and 8-9.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants note with appreciation the Patent Office finding Claims 2, 6-7 and 10-14 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants amend Claims 2, 6-7 and 10-14 to be written in independent form, to be allowed.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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9/22/05
Date